

The Delabash Express

ROBERT N. HUDSON, Editor.

Terre-Haute
WEDNESDAY, March 23, 1859

The Young Men

The tendency of the young men of the country to study some of the learned professions, or engage in trade, is a very serious detriment to our full and rapid development. The desire to shun toil and make money otherwise, is becoming alarmingly prevalent. While the agricultural interests are suffering, the professions are crowded and the young men of brawn arm and broad shoulders are lounging away a life of idleness, and adding nothing to the public good. A parent, with the least regard to the natural ability of his child, educates him in that peculiar manner which is supposed to be necessary to one of the professions, and although every desire of the child may be before some other vocation, still he is forced to go before the bar, pushed into the sick room, and sometimes even into the sacred dead. To fully understand the rule of action that should govern human conduct, he must learn a dead language—to be skilled in the science of physics he must know algebra, and if he would be learned in theology he must certainly study many ancient languages, to the great injury of his own. In our schools the true theory of our Republican Government, the principles of mechanics and art of agriculture, are hardly ever taught. The things that should be the most thoroughly understood, are often the least studied, and those things which are of the least practical advantage to us in our maboud, are often those we have spent the most time over. We do not wish, however, now to discuss the many errors in our system of education, we only desire to direct attention to the disparity of the young men who engage in agricultural pursuits, and those who engage in other vocations. There is a very deplorable deficiency of good farmers—the noblest of all vocations, that of tilling the soil, is gradually growing into disrepute. It is an alarming fact that while our population is rapidly increasing throughout the entire country, the average yield of our farms is diminishing—that of the wheat being hardly half as much as it was fifty years ago; while in England and Scotland it has nearly doubled during the same period. This is a matter of serious national importance and one to be very much regretted. In Europe—as it should be everywhere—there is no more honorable avocation than that of tilling the soil. Here, however, upon this question, we have so much degenerated from our ancestors, that positively, white and tender hands, on a man, are a passport to gentility.

It is a mistaken notion, which seems to have found its way into the minds of our young men, that the life of a professional man is one of ease, and leads surely to wealth. Never was there a greater mistake. He who practices in any of the learned professions, and succeeds, lives a life of the most intense toil—of physical, and what is greater, mental toil. No idler ever succeeds in a contest where mind comes in contact with mind. It is only the vigilant, the industrious and the determined who are successful.

Taking our stand point from the meridian of life, looking back down to the years of our childhood and drawing our conclusion from our observation and experience, we are fully satisfied that in almost every respect, a life devoted to agricultural pursuits is the most independent and attended with less wear and tear of conscience and of mind, than any other. It is our natural pursuit, at which the Creator of the soil and of man, designed should follow. Never was there a finer or more flattering prospect opened to the young agriculturist than is now presented in this Mississippi valley. The market for all the products of the soil, is the world. Railroads reach every point, and what is produced along the Washash may be consumed along the Alps—Wealth, health and happiness is within his reach, and a serene old age is the certain consequence.

John G. Saxo.

With that agreeable faculty which surprises men to laughter—it calls the mind from sterile thoughtlessness or sterner contemplation and amuses it with trifles—it is the champagne of thought—it is a ludicrous combination of those ideas, which to the reason, appear remote.

A witty man must lack discriminating judgment, it is the very essence of wit to welcome a promiscuous crowd of ideas, which present themselves in amusing contrast and ludicrous resemblances. So minds in which the reasoning faculties predominate, naturally seize on those ideas for expression, which have intricate connection with one train of thought—Such minds do not look for fanciful and distant relations among ideas, nor over looking those that have only a slight connection, select those interwoven with the subject under contemplation.

Men in whose minds judgment is united with a keen appreciation of true wit, think after a conversation of amusing things, they might have said. I conclude, therefore, that wit is a defect, or, rather the mark of a defect in the mind of its possessor.

Mr. Saxo is perhaps the wildest poet alive. With his staple production—his stock in trade—it is his distinguishing feature in his writings. Who has not laughed over the "terrible" proud Miss McBride? But who ever shed a tear in the ideal presence of the creatures of his imagination? What emotion of our finer nature is aroused by a perusal of his works? Can such a man analyze the sublimest of all passions? Can he who deals in amusing tinsel know aught of that love which is "strong as Death"—yes, stronger and as silent?

Those who heard Mr. Saxo's poem on "Love," were expecting to be amazed and were not disappointed. All the machinery of wit, jingle of rhyme, and the music of numbers were expended on his subject. No touch of pathos unlocked the heart, no lofty thought, no measured rapture of his hours.

REVISAL AT BROOKVILLE.—The Democrat, of last week, says: "The interest felt in our community upon religious subjects at this time, is truly wonderful. Something over one hundred have been added to the Methodist Church within the last six weeks; and within the last ten days a large number have been added to the Presbyterian congregation. In the latter Church, the interest seems to be increasing, scarcely a day passes but some additions are made."

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